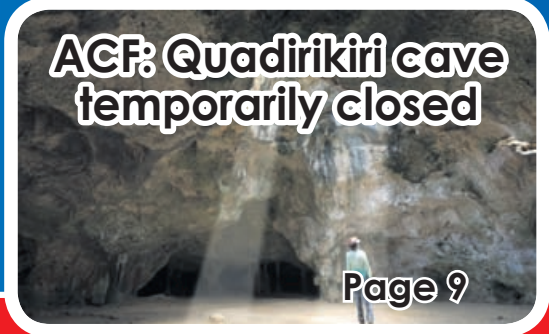




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Hundreds of National Guard troops deployed to Portland and Chicago are being sent home

By JULIE WATSON

Associated Press (AP)—Hundreds of National Guard troops deployed to Chicago and Portland, Oregon, are being sent home, and those who will remain will continue to stay off the streets amid court battles over their domestic mission by the Trump administration, a defense official said Monday.

The withdrawal of soldiers — sent from California and Texas — is part of a larger change to troop deployments after President Donald Trump began his immigration crackdown in various cities with Democratic leadership. The official was not authorized to publicly discuss the issue and requested anonymity.

U.S. Northern Command said in a statement Sunday it was “shifting and/or right-sizing” units in Portland, Los Angeles and Chicago. Although it said there would be a “constant, enduring, and long-term presence in each city.”

In the coming days, 200 California National Guard troops currently deployed to Oregon will be sent home, and about 100 will remain in the Portland area doing training, the official said. The military also plans to cut the number



A protester confronts a line of U.S. National Guard in the metropolitan detention center of downtown Los Angeles, June 8, 2025, following last night's immigration raid protest.

Associated Press.

of Oregon National Guard troops on deployment there from 200 soldiers to 100, the official said.

About 200 Texas National Guard troops in Chicago also are being sent home and about 200 soldiers will be on standby at Fort Bliss, an Army base that stretches across parts of Texas and New Mexico, the official said.

About 300 Illinois National Guard troops will remain in

the Chicago area, also doing training, but they currently are not legally allowed to conduct operations with the Department of Homeland Security, the official said. The official said the upcoming holiday season may have played a role in the change in deployments.

Diana Crofts-Pelayo, a spokesperson for California Gov. Gavin Newsom, said Trump “never should have illegally deployed our troops

in the first place.”

“We’re glad they’re finally coming home,” she wrote in an email. “It’s long overdue!”

Democratic cities targeted by Trump for military involvement — including Chicago, which filed a separate lawsuit on the issue currently before the U.S. Supreme Court — have been pushing back. They argue the president has not satisfied the legal threshold for deploying troops and

that doing so would violate states’ sovereignty.

U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut in Portland this month issued a permanent injunction blocking Trump from deploying troops in the city, saying he had failed to establish that he was legally entitled to do so. On Sunday, the administration filed an emergency motion seeking to put the ruling on hold while it appeals.

Separately, the Trump administration has stepped up immigration enforcement in Charlotte, North Carolina, expanding an aggressive campaign that’s been spearheaded by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. National Guard deployments have been one of the most controversial initiatives of Trump’s second term, demonstrating an expanded willingness to use the military to accomplish domestic goals.

Troops, including active-duty Marines, were deployed to Los Angeles during immigration protests earlier this year. The National Guard was also sent to Washington, D.C., where they were part of a broader federal intervention that Trump claimed was necessary because of crime problems. □

NYC Mayor-elect hopes to meet with Trump to discuss affordability



New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani departs El Hotel Caribe Hilton after attending the SOMOS Puerto Rico conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025.

Associated Press.

By PHILIP MARCELO and DAVID R. MARTIN

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani said Monday that he hopes to meet with

President Donald Trump to find ways the political polar opposites can work together on the central focus of his winning campaign: affordability.

At an appearance at a

food pantry in the Bronx, the Democrat confirmed that his team had reached out to the White House to set up a possible sit-down.

Trump told reporters Sunday night that he planned meet with Mamdani, saying “we’ll work something out” as he prepared to fly back to Washington after spending the weekend in Florida.

Mamdani said the overture reflected his commitment to meet with anyone who could help address the city’s most pressing needs, including controlling soaring costs. “The president ran a campaign where he spoke about a promise to deliver cheaper groceries, a promise to reduce the cost of living,” the mayor-elect said after visiting Part of the Solution, or POTS. “We are seeing his

actions and that of his administration in Washington leading to the exact opposite effect for New Yorkers.” Mamdani also criticized Trump’s efforts to cut funding to the food aid program known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, during the federal government shutdown. He vowed to “protect” New Yorkers from a “federal administration that would rather starve the people of this city, than serve the people of this city.”

The potential face-to-face could represent a detente for the Republican president and Democratic political star, who have cast each other as political foils.

Trump has for months slammed Mamdani, falsely labeling him as a “commu-

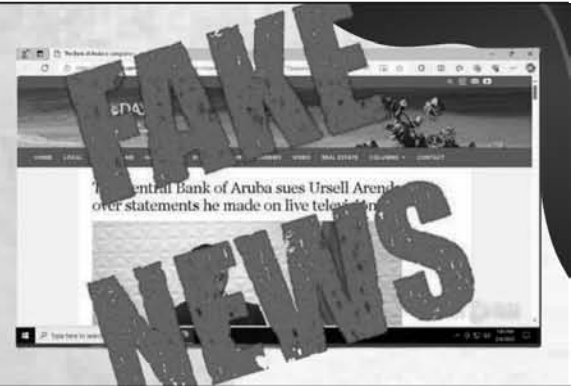
nist” and predicting the ruin of his hometown if the democratic socialist was elected. He also threatened to deport Mamdani, who was born in Uganda and became a naturalized American citizen in 2018, and to pull federal money from the city. Meanwhile Mamdani has risen from an obscure state lawmaker representing Queens to a symbol of the resistance against Trump in just a few short months.

The 34-year-old upset former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo in June’s Democratic primary then trounced him and Republican candidate Curtis Sliwa in the general election. During his victory speech earlier this month, Mamdani said he wanted New York to show the country how to defeat the president. □

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The Earl Warren Building, headquarters of the Supreme Court of California and part of the Ronald M. George State Office Complex, is shown in San Francisco, Jan. 7, 2020.

Associated Press.

Supreme Court will review an old policy used to turn away asylum seekers at the US border

By MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to review a policy used under past administrations to deny migrants a chance to apply for asylum on the Mexican border until space opened up to process claims.

The justices will hear the Trump administration's appeal of lower court rulings that struck down the practice known as metering, in which U.S. border agents capped the number of people seeking asylum at border crossings by prohibiting migrants from setting foot in the U.S.

The administration pressed for the high court's intervention even after President Donald Trump suspended the asylum system on the first day of his second term and advocates for migrants said the lower-court rulings have no ongoing practical effect.

The case will be argued in the late winter or early spring.

Metering was first used during President Barack Obama's administration when large numbers of Haitians appeared at the main crossing to San Diego from Tijuana, Mexico. It was expanded to all border crossings from Mexico during Trump's first term in the White House.

The practice ended in 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic led the government to restrict asylum-seekers even more severely. President Joe Biden formally rescinded the use of metering in 2021.

Still, the Justice Department said it wanted the justices to hear the case because the court rulings took away "a tool that administrations of both parties have deemed critical for controlling the processing of inadmissible aliens during border surges."

U.S. District Judge Cynthia Bashant ruled in 2021 that metering violated the migrants' constitutional rights and a federal law requiring officials to screen anyone

who shows up seeking asylum.

A panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed Bashant's ruling in a 2-1 decision. Twelve of the 29 judges on the San Francisco-based appeals court voted to rehear the case, a strong signal that may have caught the justices' attention.

People seeking refuge in the U.S. are able to apply for asylum once they are on American soil, regardless of whether they came legally. To qualify, they have to show a fear of persecution in their own country because of specific reasons, such as their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

Once people are granted asylum, they can't be deported. They can work legally, bring immediate family, apply for legal residency and eventually seek U.S. citizenship. It offers a permanent future in the U.S. □

House explodes in Southern California, injuring 8 people and damaging nearby homes



This photo released by the Chino Valley Fire District shows a home after a massive explosion on Nov. 16, 2025, in Chino Hills, California.

Associated Press.

Associated Press

CHINO HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Authorities were investigating on Monday after eight people were injured in an explosion that destroyed one house and damaged two others in a Southern California neighborhood.

Emergency crews responded around 3:45 p.m. Sunday following the blast in suburban Chino Hills, a city of 78,000 residents about 35 miles (56 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles.

"Firefighters found major damage to the reported house and minor damage to surrounding homes," the Chino Valley Fire District said in a statement. Photos and video from the scene showed one house reduced to a pile of rubble.

Four people from the destroyed home were transported to a hospital, and four others brought themselves, the fire district said. Their conditions were not immediately known, but the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said it appeared none were life-threatening.

Witnesses told KABC-TV that they saw people running from the explosion, including children crying for help.

Fire officials did not say what caused the blast, but said a gas leak had been stopped by late Sunday. Sixteen surrounding homes were briefly evacuated. The Southern California Gas Company was working "to assess any damage to natural gas infrastructure and make related conditions safe to ensure the safety of the neighborhood and first responders," utility spokesperson Aaron Ortiz said in a statement □.

ICC prosecutors seek life sentence for Janjaweed leader convicted of Darfur crimes

By MOLLY QUELL

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Prosecutors at the International Criminal Court on Monday asked for a life sentence for a leader of the feared Janjaweed militia convicted of playing a major role in a campaign of atrocities committed in the Sudanese region of Darfur more than 20 years ago — including ordering mass executions and bludgeoning two prisoners to death with an ax. “You literally have an axe murderer before you,” prosecutor Julian Nicholls told judges in The Hague as Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb, looked on.

Last month, Abd-Al-Rahman was convicted of 27 counts, including mass murders and rapes, for leading Janjaweed militia forces that went on a campaign of killing and destruction in 2003-2004. It was the first time the court had convicted a suspect of crimes in Darfur.

“He committed these crimes knowingly, willfully, and with, the evidence shows, enthusiasm and vigor,” Nicholls said. Abd-Al-Rahman pleaded



Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb, attends a hearing at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, Netherlands, Monday, Oct. 6, 2025.

Associated Press.

innocent to charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity when his trial opened in April 2022 and argued he was not the person known as Ali Kushayb. The judges rejected that defense, saying he even identified himself by his name and nickname in a video when he surrendered.

The defense will take the floor later in the week and

has asked for a seven-year sentence, which would allow the 76-year-old to be released in the next 18 months, considering time served.

Abd-Al-Rahman surrendered to authorities in the Central African Republic, near the border with Sudan, in 2020.

Rebels from Darfur's ethnic central and sub-Saharan African community launched

an insurgency in 2003, complaining of oppression by the Arab-dominated government in the capital, Khartoum.

Then-President Omar al-Bashir's government responded with a scorched-earth campaign of aerial bombings and raids by the Janjaweed, who often attacked at dawn, sweeping into villages on horse-

back or camelback. Up to 300,000 people were killed and 2.7 million were driven from their homes in Darfur over the years. Al-Bashir has been charged by the ICC with crimes including genocide, but he has not been handed over to face justice in The Hague, despite being ousted from power and detained. The sentencing hearing comes as Sudan has plunged into further violence. Last week, the U.N.'s top human rights body held a one-day special session to highlight hundreds of killings at a hospital in Sudan's Darfur region and other atrocities blamed on paramilitary forces fighting the army in the northeast African country.

The military and the rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, went to war in 2023, when tensions erupted between them. The army and RSF are former allies that were supposed to oversee a democratic transition after a 2019 uprising.

The latest fighting has killed at least 40,000 people, according to the World Health Organization, and displaced 12 million others. □



In this photo released by the Indonesian National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS) on Monday, Nov. 17, 2025, rescuers recover a victim of a landslide in Cilacap, Indonesia. Associated Press.

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) —

Rescue workers dug through tons of mud and rubble on Monday as they searched for 34 missing people after two separate landslides in two different regions on Indonesia's main island of Java killed at least 18 people. Rescuers recovered more bodies since landslides

triggered by torrential rains on Thursday evening that hit dozens of houses in three villages in the Cilacap district of Central Java province, increasing the death toll to 16, said Abdul Muhari, spokesperson for the National Disaster Mitigation Agency, or BNPB.

More than 500 rescue personnel, including police and

Indonesian rescuers search for nearly three dozen people after landslides killed at least 18 people

soldiers, supported by 22 excavators and 18 sniffer dogs, have been deployed in five devastated areas in Cilacap to search for seven villagers reportedly still missing as search efforts continued for a fifth day on Monday, Muhari said in a video statement.

A similar landslide had struck Central Java's Banjarnegara district just before dusk on Saturday when tons of mud plunged down the surrounding hills and buried at least 30 houses, prompting more than 800 residents to flee to safety, some of them to even higher ground prone to further landslides, Muhari said.

He said that rescuers on Monday retrieved at least

two bodies from devastated areas in Banjarnegara and were searching for 27 people reported missing, while local authorities struggled to evacuate dozens of residents who fled to vulnerable hills to safer government shelters.

BNPB was conducting a weather modification operation using an aircraft with a total of 3,000 kilograms (more than three tons) of seeding material for the operation since Sunday “to ensure weather conditions remain stable to support more effective search efforts” in both Cilacap and Banjarnegara districts, Muhari said.

Cloud seeding involves dispersing particles into clouds

to create precipitation. Muhari said that the aim of modifying the weather was to redirect the rain elsewhere and keep the search operation free of downpours, which could hamper the rescuers' progress.

Images released by BNPB showed rescue workers, supported by excavators, digging desperately in villages where green-terraced rice fields were transformed into murky brown mud, and villages were covered by thick mud, rocks and uprooted trees. Seasonal downpours cause frequent landslides and floods in Indonesia, a chain of 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or in fertile flood plains. □

Bangladesh's ousted leader Sheikh Hasina sentenced to death for crackdown on student uprising

By JULHAS ALAM

Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) —

Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and one of her close aides were sentenced to death Monday over her crackdown on a student uprising last year that killed hundreds of people and led to the toppling of her 15-year rule.

The International Crimes Tribunal based in Dhaka, the capital, passed sentence on Hasina and former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan for their involvement in the use of deadly force against protesters.

Hasina and Khan, who fled to India last year, were sentenced in absentia. India has so far declined to extradite them, making it unlikely that they would ever be executed or imprisoned.

Hasina, who was convicted on five charges of crimes against humanity, was also sentenced to prison until natural death for making inflammatory remarks and ordering the extermination of student protesters through the use of helicopters, drones, and lethal weapons.

A third suspect, a former police chief, was sentenced to five years in prison after becoming a state witness against Hasina and pleading guilty.

More than 800 people were killed and about 14,000 were injured in the student-led



Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks during a press conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Jan. 6, 2014.

Associated Press.

uprising in July and August of 2024, according to the health adviser to Bangladesh's interim government. However, the United Nations in a February report estimated the death toll could be as high as 1,400.

Hasina's response

Hasina said the charges were unjustified, arguing that she and Khan "acted in good faith and were trying to minimize the loss of life." "We lost control of the situation, but to characterize what happened as a premeditated assault on citizens is simply to misread the facts," she said Monday in

a statement denouncing a verdict she called "biased and politically motivated." Her Awami League party called for a national shutdown on Tuesday to protest the verdict.

Hasina, 78, cannot appeal the verdict unless she surrenders or is arrested within 30 days of the judgment. Bangladesh is still grappling with instability after Hasina was ousted on Aug. 5, 2024. Political bickering, the rise of Islamists, and violations of human and political rights have overshadowed aspirations for a more democratic Bangladesh, human rights

groups say.

Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus took over as the head of an interim government three days after her fall. He has vowed to punish Hasina and banned the activities of the Awami League ahead of elections set for February. A three-member tribunal, headed by Justice Golam Mortuza Mozumder, announced the ruling in a live broadcast that lasted for several hours.

Some of those in the packed courtroom cheered when Mazumder said Hasina was sentenced to death. He ad-

monished them, telling them to express their feelings outside the courtroom.

Families of some of those killed or injured during the uprising waited for hours outside.

Exile in India

In a media statement Monday, Bangladesh's Ministry of Home Affairs urged India to send both Hasina and Khan back soon, something New Delhi has so far refused to do. Separately, Bangladesh's Foreign Ministry in a statement said it would be extremely unfriendly and demeaning to justice for any other country to grant asylum to these individuals convicted of crimes against humanity.

"We urge the Indian government to immediately hand over these two convicts to the Bangladeshi authorities. It is also a legal obligation for India as per the existing extradition treaty between the two countries," it said. India's foreign ministry in a statement acknowledged the verdict but did not say whether it would hand the pair over to Dhaka.

"As a close neighbor, India remains committed to the best interests of people of Bangladesh, including in peace, democracy, inclusion and stability in that country. We will always engage constructively with all stakeholders to that end," it said. □

Slovaks protest populist leader Fico on anniversary of Velvet Revolution

Associated Press

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia

(AP) — Tens of thousands of people in Slovakia on Monday protested against populist Prime Minister Robert Fico and his pro-Russian stance, taking advantage of the anniversary of the 1989 Velvet Revolution that ended decades of communist rule in the former Czechoslovakia.

Rallies and marches took place in dozens of communities. The protesters in Freedom Square in the rainy capital, Bratislava, chanted, "We have enough of Fico," "We want a change" and "Resign."

One banner in the crowd displayed the words by late Czechoslovak and Czech President Václav Havel that became the motto of the Velvet Revolution: "Truth and love must prevail over lies and hatred." Fico has long been a divisive figure in Slovakia, and thousands have repeatedly rallied to protest his policies. Most recently, his government canceled the national holiday on Monday that marked the Velvet Revolution, calling it part of austerity measures.

Michal Šimečka, leader of the major opposition Progressive Slovakia party, re-

jected that explanation.

"It has nothing to do with economy or savings," Šimečka said. "Robert Fico just wants to tell us that the holiday of freedom is useless, that freedom is useless. We value freedom and we will not let it be taken away from us."

Fico also recently angered many in Slovakia by telling students in the city of Poprad that they should go to fight for Ukraine if they don't agree with his pro-Russian views.

Fico has met Russian President Vladimir Putin three times since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine



People hold mobile phones with flashlights during a rally to celebrate the 36th anniversary of the pro-democratic Velvet Revolution, in Bratislava, Slovakia, Monday, Nov. 17, 2025.

Associated Press.

in 2022 and cancelled all Slovakian bilateral military support for Ukraine. He also

has openly challenged the European Union's policies on Ukraine. □

Nations hit by natural disasters tell ministers at climate talks to act

By SETH BORENSTEIN, ANTON L. DELGADO and MELINA WALLING

Associated Press

BELEM, Brazil (AP) — Battered by last month's ferocious climate-fueled hurricane, Jamaica joined other small island nations and impoverished countries at Monday's United Nations climate talks to implore the rest of the world to stop talking and start acting. Their message: Our lives are on the line.

As high-level ministers from governments around the world took over negotiations at the conference called COP30, vulnerable nations lined up to say how important it is for countries to cut emissions. They said the world's current climate plans aren't strong enough to keep warming below the 1.5 degree Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) set by the 2015 Paris Agreement.

In addition, they renewed a longstanding call for rich nations to do more financially to help poor countries deal with warming. "Hurricane Melissa changed the life of every Jamaican in less than 24 hours," said Matthew Samuda, the country's economic growth minister. The Category 5 hurricane that hit three weeks ago caused almost \$10 billion in damage and displaced hundreds of thousands of people. He called it evidence of "the new phase of climate change."

"We did not create this crisis, but we refuse to stand as victims," Samuda said. "We call on the global community, especially major emitters, to honor their commitments and safeguard the 1.5 degree threshold for Jamaica. This is survival. It's about our people and their right to a safe and prosperous future."

Armando Rodriguez Batista, Cuba's environment and science minister, noted his country was flooded by Melissa.

"Tomorrow it will be too late to do what we had to do a long time ago," he said.

Speakers lament slow progress

Other nations reiterated the life-or-death nature of stepping up the fight to cut

emissions, calling it "a moral duty" and saying climate damage is their day-to-day reality. "I sit on the roof of the house all night, looking at the neighbors, thinking whether or not the water will swallow us all," Romanian Environment Minister Diana-Anda Buzoianu said, reading the words of a victim of this year's floods in her country.

"Promises alone will not hold back the rising seas," Seychelles Environment and Climate Minister Flavien Philomel Joubert said. A ruling earlier this year by the International Court of Justice that climate change is a planetary existential problem that must be fixed is "leverage" that small island countries will use to speed up climate-fighting efforts at COP30, said Tuvalu Attorney-General Laingane Italeli Talia.

That ruling shows that "the 1.5 target is not just a political aspiration, but a legal obligation informed by the best available science," Tuvalu Environment and Climate Minister Maina Vakafua Talia said as thunder from a passing storm reverberated through the hall.

"We are seeing the 1.5 tar-

get disappear before our eyes," Talia said, adding that for small islands "it is the line between our survival and loss."

But stronger climate plans and saving 1.5 is important for the whole world, not just small islands, he added. COP30, more heavily fortified after a pair of demonstrations disrupted the main venue in the first week, kicked off its second week with foreign and other ministers stepping in for the lower-level negotiators who handled it earlier. They have far more power and leeway to make tough political decisions, and U.N. Climate Executive Secretary Simon Stiell told them to use it.

"The spirit is there, but the speed is not," Stiell said. "The pace of change in the real economy has not been matched by the pace of progress in these negotiating rooms. As climate disasters wrecked millions of lives and hammer every economy, pushing up prices for food and other basic needs, we all know what's at stake."

Other speakers also urged quicker action.

"The time for promises is

over," Brazil Vice President Geraldo Alckmin said. "Each additional fraction of a degree of global warming represents lives at risk, greater inequality and greater losses for those who contributed least to the problem."

U.N. General Assembly President Annalena Baerbock said recent disasters show how much needs to be done.

"The climate crisis is unrelenting," she said. "We saw this when Hurricane Melissa barreled into the Caribbean two weeks ago. We saw it again last week at the Philippines ... near back-to-back typhoons."

'Our existence is at stake'
Adding to the pressure, late Sunday the Brazilian presidency of the talks issued a five-page summary on how to proceed on several sticky issues. Those include pressing nations to do more in their new emissions-cutting plans, handling of trade disputes and barriers involving climate and the need to deliver on last year's \$300 billion annual pledge for climate financial aid to poor nations.

Those difficult issues weren't part of the original agenda

nor the COP30 presidency's plans, but several countries pushed for them.

Several countries — especially small island nations — have asked that the talks address the inadequacy of the emissions-cutting plans submitted by 116 nations so far this year. Collectively, the plans come nowhere close to cutting heat-trapping gases enough to prevent breaching the 1.5-degrees Celsius warming limit since the 1800s.

That issue may get combined with a call for a plan for phasing out fossil fuels — coal, oil and natural gas, the chief cause of climate change. That phaseout was agreed to after much debate at U.N. climate talks two years ago, but last year, little happened on the issue. Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva earlier this month raised the issue anew.

"Our very existence is at stake," Mauritius Foreign Affairs Minister Dhananjay Ramful said. "A decade after the promises of the Paris Agreement, despite our good intentions, we realized that we have not done enough. ... Our planet demands action now." □



Indigenous activists participate in a climate protest during the COP30 U.N. Climate Summit, Monday, Nov. 17, 2025, in Belem, Brazil. Associated Press.

Beautiful areas around Aruba



(Oranjestad)—In Aruba, there are tons of activities that to enjoy during your visit, but sometimes you just want to slow down and enjoy the view. Here are some beautiful areas on the island that will have you in awe.

The hidden Natural Bridge
Here in Aruba we have three natural bridges and many see this one on thinking that it's the world fa-

mous one but it's not. The why is easy, it's way too dangerous to go down the cliff to reach this beauty and no tour companies will do that. Some people refuse to go down due fear of height. To reach this beauty you must go to San Nicolas and drive up the hill till The Point Lighthouse, park your car and walk until you reach the east point coast and go left along the coastline and good luck

going down the cliff.

Surfside Beach

This beach was very famous when we were kids and many locals love to swim at this beach. After some years the locals shifted to the more north-west beaches like Eagle, Boca Catalina and Arashi but after the government renovated the whole area it got a new facelift and its back as a family beach and weekends are just amazing at this area.

Natural Bridge at Blackstone Beach

As mentioned, there are three natural bridges and this one is in the Arikok National Park. The other two Bridges you can visit by car but for this one you must have a 4x4 jeep or you will get stuck at the Andicuri Beach. □



How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of

Aruban beaches. How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started

to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this—one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate



around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much

stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

Why is the north deep, but the south shallow?

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom. □

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).

Paseo Herencia; An exciting destination for leisure and entertainment



NOORD — Paseo Herencia, situated in the heart of Palm Beach and within walking distance from the high-rise hotels, beckons with a diverse array of shopping, dining, and entertainment options in an outdoor setting.

Shopping

Paseo Herencia presents a captivating selection of stores catering to various preferences, encompassing beachwear, apparel, fragrances, footwear, jewelry, keepsakes, and much more. Unwind at Maggy's, indulging in their salon services while exploring a range of beauty products. For a memorable gift crafted from natural ingredients, explore Aruba Aloe's offerings. Iconic brands like Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike, and Pandora stand among the favorites.

Dining

Embark on a global culinary journey at Paseo Herencia's diverse array of restaurants, each offering a unique dining experience. From the vibrant flavors of Iguana Cantina's Mexican cuisine to the Spanish elegance of Xixon Spanish Restaurant, the innovative fusion of Pizza and Sushi at Fusion Cuisine, the grilled delights of Skewers Grill, the comfort of The Lazy Turtle, the creativity at Drunk's Denial, and the seafood sensation of Sexy Shrimps Bar, and the familiar warmth of Starbucks, indulge in an unforgettable gastronomic adventure that spans the world's finest cuisines, all within the charming ambiance of our outdoor center.

VIP Cinema

Indulge in an unparalleled cinematic experience at Caribbean Cinemas VIP, nestled on Paseo Herencia's second floor. Relax in supremely comfortable reclining seats while enjoying movies on high-quality screens with state-of-the-art projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound. Don't forget to relish the delectable buttery popcorn.

Entertainment

Paseo Herencia offers live entertainment from Sunday to Thursday at 8pm on the center stage, as well as captivating nightly watershows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm, and 9:30pm. Thrill-seekers can explore the Airsoft experience, located behind The Lazy Turtle. For picture-perfect moments, capture Instagram-worthy shots at the Angel Wings installation between Pandora and Free Spirit, or amidst the Flying mosaic hearts behind King Churros. There's more fun in store with delightful kids' activities, including a Kid's carousel and train ride, available every day from 6 pm to 10 pm.

Parking is complimentary for up to two hours when shopping, dining, or enjoying a movie at Paseo Herencia. Simply present your purchase receipt to the parking cashier. For more details on specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website at www.paseoherencia.com. □



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Today is going to be a good day



(Oranjestad)—Here's why: **Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.**

Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach.

In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center.

For more information, visit the website www.acf.aw

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the Cali-



fornia Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light.

Kayak in the Mangroves
Mangel Halto at Savaneta is

definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout—as it might get a little windy and rough—you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. It's fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. ☐

Aruba Conservation Foundation: Quadirikiri Cave temporarily closed for maintenance work

(Oranjestad)—The Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF) recently emitted a public notice informing visitors that the Quadirikiri Cave will temporarily be unavailable due to maintenance and repair work.

This temporary closure will only last 1 week, starting from Monday, November 17th to November 24th, 2025. These upgrades are part of ACF's commitment to improving the visitor experience within Arikok National Park. Visitors can access the cave again starting November 25th, 2025. ☐

ACF appreciates your understanding and cooperation.



Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.



There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitch a ride home, the man

saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and

the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the

next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass holds a lot of value to our culture of folkloric story-telling. □

Source: visitaruba.com

Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by



R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed

that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot

of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be ob-

served, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □

Unique fauna of Aruba

For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the cascabel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for

urbanization.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color.

The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.



Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by

flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Coneu (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigro-nuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Coneu, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Coneu can live in a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Coneu has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they

are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Coneu is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Coneu is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Coneu can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. □



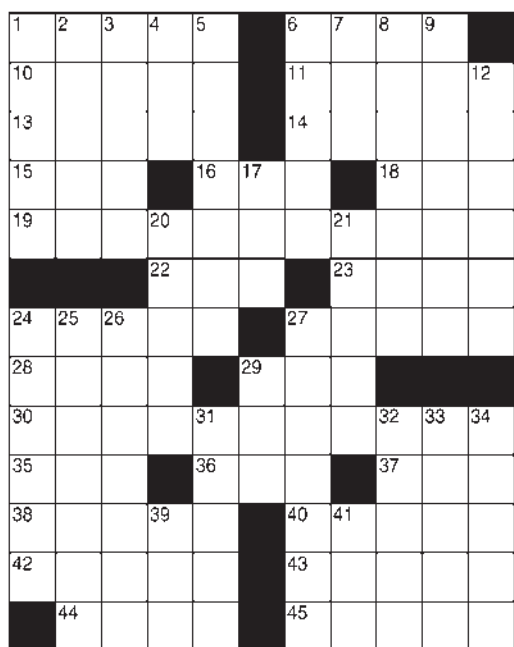
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 Dance of
1 Bishop's Brazil
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6 Com-
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10 Japanese
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genre
11 Use,
as force
13 Return
to base
14 Not in
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15 Female
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18 Water, in
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19 Computer
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22 Deli
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24 Book of
maps
27 Must
have
28 Casual
talk
29 In shape
30 Some
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35 Stretch of
years
36 Soaking
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37 Derby or
fedora

DOWN

- 1 Partners
2 Deeply
impressed
3 Bengal cat
cry
4 Australian
bird
5 Sportscast
segments
6 Confine
7 Chopping
tool
8 Daydream
9 Picked up
the tab
12 Has
faith in
17 Bullfight
cry
20 Furious
21 Beetho-
ven's
"— Joy"
24 Means of
approach
25 Shrink's
specialty
26 Wyoming
city
27 Wee bites
29 Winter
bug
31 Even a
little
32 Marine
mammal
33 "C'est —!"
34 Like cliffs
39 — canto
41 Building
wing



11-27

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-27 CRYPTOQUOTE

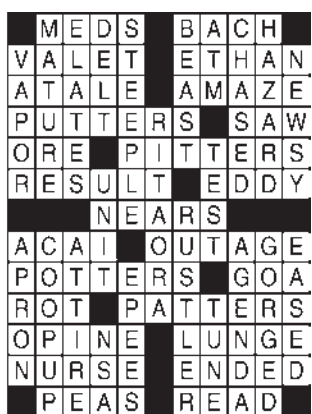
SV LKX MBOGA EKZBWJSAD

ABI BHBGL NOL, LKX YOA

WBOYJ EKZBWJSAD ABI BHBGL

NOL. — ZOGWJO EW BIOGW

Cryptoquote: ONE PRESS ACCOUNT
SAID I WAS AN OVERNIGHT SUCCESS. I
THOUGHT THAT WAS THE LONGEST NIGHT
I'VE EVER SPENT. — SANDRA CISNEROS

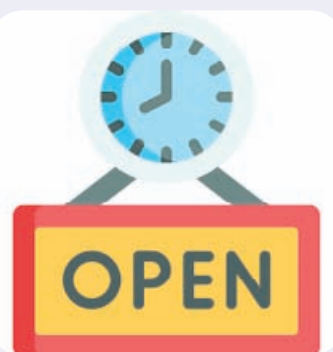


Cruise ship Schedule: Nov. 17 - 23 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
MON	17	CELEBRITY ASCENT	08.00	18.00	C	1
TUE	18	BRITANNIA	07.00	18.00	B	1
		SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	19	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	08.00	23.00	B	1
		OCEANIA ALLURA	10.00	22.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	20	AIDASOL	08.00	18.00	B	1
		CARIBBEAN PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
SAT	22	AIDAPERLA	09.00	22.00	C	1
		ROYAL CLIPPER	09.00	18.00	B	1
SUN	23	MSC DIVINA	08.00	18.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★

11/18

Answer to previous puzzle

2	4	7	9	1	5	3	8	6
9	6	8	2	7	3	5	1	4
3	1	5	6	4	8	7	9	2
1	9	3	7	2	4	8	6	5
5	7	6	8	9	1	4	2	3
8	2	4	5	3	6	9	7	1
4	8	2	1	5	7	6	3	9
6	3	1	4	8	9	2	5	7
7	5	9	3	6	2	1	4	8

Difficulty: ★

11/17

Novo cuts Wegovy prices, but doctors still see cost challenges for patients

By TOM MURPHY
AP Health Writer

Novo Nordisk is chopping prices again for Wegovy, but doctors say the expense will remain challenging for patients without insurance. The drugmaker said Monday that it has started selling higher doses of the injectable obesity treatment for \$349 a month to patients paying the full bill. That's down from \$499, and in line with terms of a drug pricing agreement outlined earlier this month by President Donald Trump's administration. Novo also started a temporary offer of \$199 a month for the first two months of low doses of Wegovy and the drug's counterpart for diabetes, Ozempic. The new pricing will be available at pharmacies nationwide, through home delivery and from some telemedicine providers.

Rival Eli Lilly also plans price breaks for its weight-loss drug Zepbound once it gets a new, multi-dose pen on the market. Lilly has said it will sell a starter dose of Zepbound for \$299 a month and additional doses at up to \$449. Both represent \$50 reductions from current prices for sales directly to patients. Obesity treatments like Zepbound and Wegovy have soared in popularity in recent years. Known as GLP-1 receptor agonists, the drugs

work by targeting hormones in the gut and brain that affect appetite and feelings of fullness.

In clinical trials, they helped people shed 15% to 22% of their body weight — up to 50 pounds or more in many cases. But affordability has been a persistent challenge for patients.

A recent poll by the nonprofit KFF found that about half of the people who take the treatments say it was hard to afford them.

Both Lilly and Novo announced price cuts earlier this year that brought the cost of higher doses of their treatments down to around \$500 a month.

Previous research has shown that people have difficulty paying for a medication when the cost rises above \$100 per month, said Stacie Dusetzina, a Vanderbilt University Medical Center professor and prescription drug pricing expert.

She said Novo's new prices are "not going to really move the needle for a person who doesn't have a pretty reasonable amount of disposable income."

Dr. Laura Davisson said the medication would still be unaffordable for patients on Medicaid in states where the government-funded program for people with low incomes doesn't cover the drug. □

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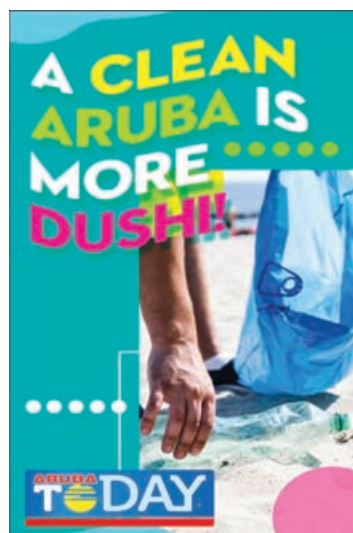
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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
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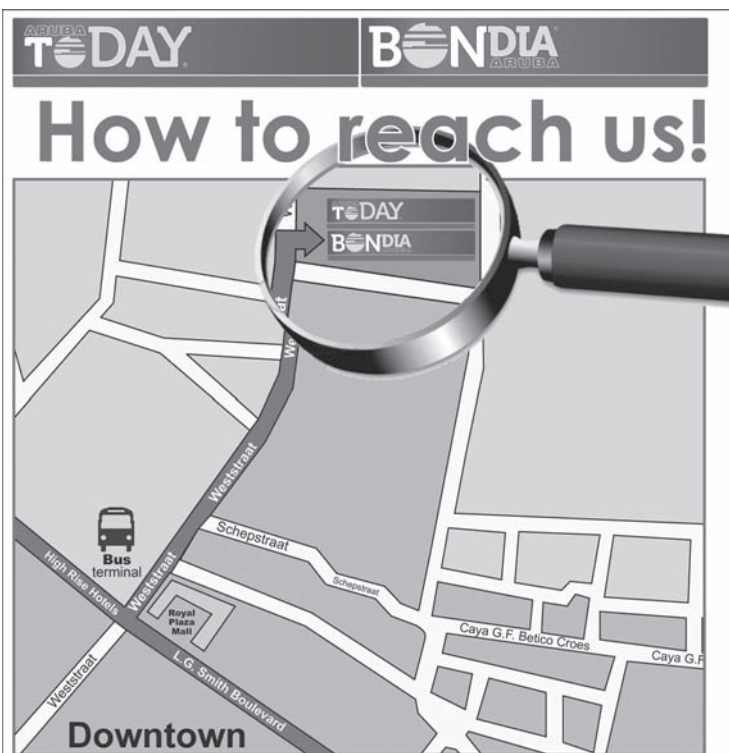
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



Alleged plot to bribe a juror with \$100,000 upends former heavyweight boxer's NYC drug trial

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Three men were arrested Monday for allegedly trying to pay up to \$100,000 in cash to a juror at the Brooklyn drug trial of former heavyweight boxer Goran Gogic, leading a judge to abruptly dismiss the jury as it was about to hear opening statements.

An anonymous jury will be chosen when Gogic's trial resumes in a month, said John Marzulli, a spokesperson for federal prosecutors in Brooklyn.

Gogic, of Montenegro, was set to stand trial for allegedly conspiring to smuggle 20 tons (18.1 metric tons) of cocaine to Europe from Colombia through U.S. ports using commercial cargo ships. He has pleaded not guilty. His lawyer did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Law enforcement officials have described Gogic as a "major drug trafficker" and said he operated on a "mammoth scale."

A former heavyweight boxer, Gogic fought professionally in Germany from 2001 to 2012, compiling a 21-4-2



FILE - The New York Police Department has extra security in place in front of the Brooklyn Federal Courthouse for the start of jury selection in the trial of Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, Nov. 5, 2018, in New York.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)

record, according to boxing website Sport & Note. He was listed as 6-foot-5 (1.96 meters) and weighed in at anywhere from 227 pounds (103 kilograms) to 250 pounds (113 kilograms). In a criminal complaint in Brooklyn federal court, an FBI agent wrote that the bribery scheme unfolded between Thursday and Sunday. According to the court

papers, one of the men charged in the plot — Mustafa Fteja — already knew a juror described in the complaint as "John Doe #1" and called him multiple times on his cellphone Thursday before the juror agreed to meet him in Staten Island. During the meeting, which took place Thursday, Fteja told the juror that associates in the Bronx were willing to

pay him to return a not guilty verdict, the complaint said. Two days later, Fteja told the juror during a second meeting that they were willing to pay him between \$50,000 and \$100,000 to corrupt the trial, the complaint said. It was not immediately clear who will represent Fteja and two others accused in the alleged jury tampering scheme when they appear

in court later Monday.

According to the complaint, investigators secured several recorded conversations of the defendants planning the juror corruption plot as the men spoke in Albanian and English.

At his trial, Gogic is charged with violating and conspiring to violate the Maritime Drug Law Enforcement Act. If convicted, he faces a sentence of 10 years to life in prison.

According to prosecutors, Gogic and his co-conspirators worked with the ships' crew members to smuggle cocaine in shipping containers, hoisting loads of the drug from speedboats that approached the cargo vessels along their route, including near ports in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

Three shipments were intercepted by U.S. law enforcement agents, prosecutors said, including 1,437 kilograms (3,168 pounds) of cocaine aboard the MSC Carlotta at the Port of New York and New Jersey in February 2019 and 17,956 kilograms (39,586 pounds) of cocaine — with a street value of over \$1 billion — aboard the MSC Gayane at the Port of Philadelphia in June 2019. □



FILE - Michigan guard Sylva Swords (12) controls the ball during the second half in the first round of the NCAA college basketball tournament against Iowa State, March 21, 2025, in South Bend, Ind.

(AP Photo/John Mersits, File)

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
AP Basketball Writer

Michigan and TCU vaulted into the top 10 of The Associated Press Top 25 women's basketball poll on Monday after big victories over ranked opponents. The sixth-ranked Wolverines climbed eight spots after routing then-No. 18 Notre

Dame 93-54 on Saturday. No. 10 TCU moved up seven places as the Horned Frogs topped then-No. 10 N.C. State on the road Sunday, 69-59. Michigan's win over Notre Dame was its biggest ever over a Top 25 team. The Wolverines, who were last ranked this high on Feb. 21,

Michigan and TCU climb into top 10 of women's AP Top 25 after big wins over ranked opponents

2022, have a matchup with No. 1 UConn on Friday night in the Hall of Fame Showcase at Mohegan Sun.

"Connecticut is really, really good," Michigan coach Kim Barnes Arico said. "I think our kids want to compete against the best, I always have a stomach ache when those games are on our schedule."

The Huskies remained the top team after receiving 28 first-place votes from a national media panel. South Carolina was second, fresh off a 69-52 victory over then-No. 8 USC. The Gamecocks got three first-place votes and No. 3 UCLA received the other top ballot after double-digit wins over

Oklahoma and North Carolina last week. Texas was fourth and LSU fifth.

Baylor was seventh and the Sooners fell one place to eighth with Maryland ninth. In and out

West Virginia made its Top 25 debut at No. 23 after beating Duke 57-49 on Friday night in a game marred by an on-court confrontation. The Mountaineers had six players ejected at the half due and played the second half with just five players.

Duke fell out of the poll, ending a 24-week run in the Top 25 that was the ninth-longest active streak. Conference supremacy The Southeastern Confer-

ence has eight teams in the rankings this week, including three of the top five. The Big Ten has seven schools in the poll, the Big 12 five and the Atlantic Coast Conference four. The Big East has one.

Games of the week No. 19 Iowa vs No. 7 Baylor, Thursday. The two schools will play in the WBCA Showcase at Disney World. It's the Hawkeyes' first trip outside Iowa state this season while the Bears have played in Paris and Las Vegas. No. 11 USC at No. 24 Notre Dame, Friday. Both teams are coming off disappointing losses and will look for a quality win early in the season. □

Pochettino faces off against mentor Bielsa when US meets Uruguay in friendly

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Mauricio Pochettino gets to match up Tuesday night against Marcelo Bielsa, the coach who recruited him as a 13-year-old, when the United States plays Uruguay in a pre-World Cup friendly. Pochettino, 53, took over the U.S. team last year while the 70-year-old Bielsa became Uruguay's coach in 2023.

"My admiration and my respect is massive," Pochettino said Monday. "He was key in my career (as) a player and key in — to love that game and to inspire, he inspired me to keep pushing, trying to be a coach. Yes, tomorrow for me is a thing to enjoy, to be with him very close and in the same time we are going to suffer because all the teams under

Marcelo's management are so tough to play." Pochettino played under Bielsa at Newell's Old Boys in Argentina from 1990-92. Bielsa went on to coach Argentina and Chile as well as several clubs. After his playing career ended in 2006, Pochettino has coached clubs that included Tottenham, Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea.

He called Bielsa a hero of his. "You always wait (for) him to say hello and then you say hello," Pochettino said. The 16th-ranked U.S. is coming off a 2-1 win over Paraguay on Saturday, the same day No. 15 Uruguay tied 0-0 at Mexico.

Pochettino plans to rotate some of his lineup, given the short turnaround and the switch from cool weather

last weekend in Chester, Pennsylvania, to warmer temperatures in Florida.

"We need to think (of) the clubs that they own the players and not to take any risk because I think they are in a moment that is (a) very tough period in the competition," he said.

The U.S. is unbeaten in four straight games, all friendlies against World Cup-bound teams. Pochettino took over the Americans in October 2024 following a first-round elimination at the Copa America and described the team's poor results at the CONCACAF Nations League final four in March as a turning point. "You don't change the captain of the ship in the middle of this storm. No, you give confidence and



FILE - United States head coach Mauricio Pochettino gives a press conference, Mexico, Oct. 14, 2024, ahead of an international friendly soccer match against Mexico, at Akron Stadium in Guadalajara.,.

(AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo, File)

drive," he said. "But if something was wrong, you need to change. But when you change, you need time to build the way that you are going to operate and do the things.

After Tuesday, the U.S. has two friendlies in March before Pochettino announces his World Cup roster.

Also Monday, the U.S. Soccer Federation said former Deloitte Consulting CEO Dan Helfrich will become its chief operating officer on Jan. 1. Helfrich, a former Georgetown soccer player, has been a play-by-play broadcaster of the Hoyas' men's soccer team since 2005. □

Mbappé and PSG: The \$800M battle over unpaid wages and moral harassment

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**
AP Sports Writer

The legal dispute between Paris Saint-Germain and Kylian Mbappé escalated on Monday with both sides making colossal financial demands.

The France star forward and his former club are at odds over alleged unpaid wages, and the financial dispute was examined by an industrial court.

Mbappé, who did not attend the hearing, previously claimed he was owed 55 million euros (\$63 million) by the reigning European champion. He now demands more than 260 million euros from the club, arguing that PSG owes him that money because his fixed-term contract should be reclassified as a permanent one. Such a reclassification would trigger compensation for unfair dismissal, unpaid wages, bonuses, and severance.

He also claims damages for moral harassment, undeclared work, and breaches of PSG's duty of good faith and safety toward him.

"Kylian Mbappé is not asking for anything beyond what the law provides; he is simply



France's Kylian Mbappe celebrates the opening goal during a World Cup 2026 group D qualifying soccer match between France and Ukraine in Paris, Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025.

(AP Photo/Christophe Ena)

seeking the enforcement of his legal rights, as any employee would," the player's advisers said in a statement. PSG, meanwhile, is seeking a total of 440 million euros from the striker including 180 million euros for a "loss of opportunity" to complete his transfer since he left as a free agent after he declined a 300 million euros offer from Saudi club Al-Hilal in July

2023. PSG said in a statement it also wants compensation for breaches of good faith in both negotiations and contract performance, as well as reputational and image damage.

A decision from the court is expected next month.

A lingering dispute Mbappé joined Real Madrid during the 2024 summer on a free transfer after scoring

a club-record 256 goals in seven years at PSG, which won the Champions League without him this year.

PSG argued that when Mbappé was sidelined before the 2023-24 season — following his decision not to extend his contract — there was a verbal agreement with him opting to relinquish bonuses in order to return to the team.

"Before the court, the club presented evidence showing that the player acted disloyally by concealing for nearly eleven months, between July 2022 and June 2023, his decision not to extend his contract, thereby depriving the club of any possibility of arranging a transfer," PSG said in a statement.

"The player then challenged an agreement concluded with the club in August 2023, which provided for a reduction in salary should he decide to leave on a free transfer, in order to preserve the club's financial stability following the exceptional investment made."

Mbappé's camp replied that PSG never produced any evidence of an agreement to waive these payments. Harassment accusations When he accused PSG of moral harassment, Mbappé denounced the 'lofting' he claimed to have been subjected to at the club. The word lofting is used in France to describe a practice that involves isolating a player from the main squad for sporting, administrative, or disciplinary reasons. □



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Team's patience running out on Bills receiver Keon Coleman after third benching in two years

By **JOHN WAWROW** AP Sports Writer

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)

— Keon Coleman needs a better alarm clock.

If the Buffalo Bills' second-year wide receiver didn't get the wake-up call when being benched on Sunday for arriving late to a team meeting, Coleman got a reminder of how expendable he might be after watching the passing game click without him.

Whatever difficulties Josh Allen's experienced in pushing the ball deep and finding open receivers for stretches of this season seemed to vanish in Buffalo's 44-32 win over Tampa Bay.

In the 31st passing game of at least 300 yards in his career, Allen completed



FILE - Buffalo Bills wide receiver Keon Coleman warms up before an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Nov 9, 2025, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

(AP Photo/Peter Joneleit, File)

throws to nine players on a day receivers Gabe Davis and Mecole Hardman made their season debuts,

and Buffalo was missing its most reliable option in tight end Dalton Kincaid (hamstring). With three TDs passing and three more rushing, Allen thrived despite starter Khalil Shakir limited to one catch for minus-3 yards.

Meantime, Tyrell Shavers had a breakout game with four catches for a career-best 90 yards, including a 43-yard touchdown. And the Bills finally got their running backs involved, with Ty Johnson scoring on a 52-yard catch and run, and James Cook adding a 25-yard TD catch.

The Bills (7-3) aren't about to move on from Coleman just yet because they've invested too much in the 22-year-old after drafting him with the first pick of the second round in 2024.

And they did so by trading back twice in passing up on the chance to select Kansas City's Xavier Worthy, and chose Coleman over Ladd McConkey, who went to the Chargers a pick later.

And yet, time and patience are running out on a player who has now been disciplined three times — twice this season — for showing up late to meetings.

Though Allen and coach Sean McDermott were measured in their comments on Coleman's benching, veteran tackle Dion Dawkins provided a far more blunt assessment.

After saying he had Coleman's back, Dawkins added: "Pats on the back are over with and it's time for him to grow up, and he knows it."

Coleman said he needs to do better, and reiterated many of the same things he said a month ago after being benched for the first series of Buffalo's loss to New England. And yet when

asked if McDermott's message was received, Coleman said, "Nah, I wouldn't say that." As to why this keeps happening, he said: "Mistakes happen. Things happen but again, got to be better."

Coleman has already been under scrutiny for his inconsistencies this season. Since having eight catches, 112 yards and a TD in a season-opening win over Baltimore, Coleman has combined for 24 catches for 218 yards and two scores.

He's now in jeopardy of being passed on the depth chart by Davis, who is in his second stint in Buffalo and has an established rapport with Allen. And then there's Shavers, who made the team a year ago as an undrafted free agent.

In praising Shavers for his work ethic and perseverance, Allen cited offensive coordinator Joe Brady.

"He says, 'The reward for doing is opportunity for more,'" Allen said. "And I think that's what he's earned over the course of the season and his career."

The clock keeps ticking on Coleman to finally arrive.

What's working

Kickoff returns. Though Hardman lost a fumble fielding a punt, he and backup running back Ray Davis combined for 219 kickoff return yards. Hardman's sole return went 61 yards, while Davis averaged 39.5 yards on four chances.

What needs help

Run defense. Buffalo allowed 202 yards rushing, with backup running back Sean Tucker scoring twice, including a 43-yard run. The Bills have allowed 200-plus yards rushing three times this season, after doing so twice over their past three years. □



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